

DB101 and Transitional Youth

Social Security Facts for Educators

Social Security Definition of Disability – Child Under 18:

A child under 18 is considered disabled if the child has a physical or mental impairment which:

- Causes severe functional limitations, and
- Has lasted or can be expected to last for at least 12 months, or
- Can be expected to lead to death

Social Security Definition of Disability – Over 18, the definition changes:

According to Social Security, a person over 18 is considered disabled if the person has a physical or mental impairment which:

- Prevents the person from any Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) - earning a certain amount of money, *and that*
- Has lasted or can be expected to last for at least 12 months, or
- Can be expected to result in death

There is a disability redetermination at age 18.

Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999

- Removes barriers requiring people with disabilities to choose between work and health care coverage.
 - SSI and Title II recipients under age 65 are eligible for a “Ticket”, which will be issued by SSA.
 - Provides more choices in employment services.
 - Enables persons with disabilities to work more and lessen dependence on benefits.
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Benefits Planning Tools and Responsibilities

- Social Security’s Benefits Planning Query (BPQY): Know what benefits you receive now; see AZ DB101 Home page box: *“What benefits am I on?”*
- Reporting Requirements: The disability beneficiary or their representative payee is responsible to report monthly changes to Social Security by the 10th of the next month. Reporting income and other life changes that can affect benefits is required.
- Notice of Action: Read all correspondence from Social Security. Most actions need to take place within ten (10) days. You may have a right to appeal decisions.

SSDI & SSI - 2 Different Programs!

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) – Title II = Social Insurance

- Based on an individual's work history & amount paid into the system.
- Payments from the “insurance policy” that an employee pays into through FICA taxes.
- Deceased or retired parent's or spouse work history.
- Childhood Disability Beneficiary (age 18)
- Medicare

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) - Title XVI = Means Tested

- Based on financial need.
- Federal Benefit Rate (FBR) of \$721 (individual) is maximum payment amount
- Resources limit of \$2,000.
- Medicaid (AHCCCS)
- Most students will be on SSI

Payments for SSI and SSDI vary depending on each individual's circumstances.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Program provides cash benefits to people with disabilities who have limited income and resources.

- The main purpose of SSI is to “supplement” cash benefits for food, shelter, and clothing.
- Maximum monthly SSI benefit for individuals in 2014 is \$720.
- Amount of benefit is based on financial need and on details of your living situation.

Some people get less than \$721 because they live with someone else and don't pay their “fair-share” towards household expenses.

- Deemed Income - Money that is received by another that *can* be used for food, shelter, or clothing.
 - If the individual is a minor, deeming rules apply to the parents.
 - Amount of SSI cash benefit is based on parents' income and resources.
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Student Earned Income Exclusion

Allows SSI recipients that are under 22 and attending school at least half-time to work without their SSI benefit decreasing.

- Up to \$1,750 each month with an annual cap of \$7,060
- Attending school half-time:
 - In college at least 8 hours a week
 - In grades 7-12 at least 12 hours a week
 - In (some) training classes 12-15 hours a week